



## **GREATER SULLIVAN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH REGION**

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### **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: 09/27/2011**

**CONTACT: Jessica R. McAuliff, Regional Coordinator (603) 398-2222 cell**

#### **Updates from your regional Public Health Network: \$60,000 Grant Received for Childhood Lead Prevention & Healthy Homes Activities:**

The Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network (PHN) has been awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Centers For Disease Control and The NH State Department of Health and Human Services. The two-year grant is a significant leap in the progress of expanding Public Health activities in the Sullivan County area.

The PHN will join forces with Connecticut Valley Home Care (Newport) to provide case management services to address specific cases of childhood lead poisoning. The grant will promote a whole healthy-homes approach by initiating a new program called *One Touch*. *One Touch* will ensure that every home 'touched' by our Nurse Case management will be thoroughly evaluated for many potential health hazards including healthy water and healthy air. The *One Touch* program aims to reduce the incidence of major health conditions like Asthma and Carbon Monoxide poisoning, in addition to reducing the potentially deadly affects of lead poisoning.

Sullivan County in particular is a targeted area of higher risk of lead poisoning, due to its large percentage of older buildings and area demographics. In a recent County Health Rankings Report, Sullivan County ranked second to lowest for overall health, including lead poisoning (second to Coos County.) The PHN intends to work in close partnership with the Claremont-Newport Healthy Homes Committee for a strong case management effort addressing the challenges facing the subject of childhood lead poisoning prevention in our area.

Through this new grant, the Region will hire one Public Health Nurse Case Manager and a part time Program Support specialist, to be supervised by the office of the Public Health Network out of Unity.

The PHN and the Healthy Homes Committee continue to meet monthly to address ways to improve the health of our residents through eliminating home health hazards. For more, visit their web site at [www.sullivancountynh.gov/healthyhomes](http://www.sullivancountynh.gov/healthyhomes) or call Jessica McAuliff, MPH, Regional Coordinator at (603) 398-2222.

*The PHN is a collaborative of municipalities and health and human service agencies in Sullivan and parts of Merrimack County. Under Sullivan County as Fiscal Agent, the PHN serves just over 30,000 people in the 15 rural towns of Acworth, Charlestown, Claremont, Croydon, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, New London, Newbury, Newport, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Unity, and Wilmot. [www.sullivancountynh.gov/publichealth](http://www.sullivancountynh.gov/publichealth)*